Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of automatic software testing comprising:

initiating a software test comprising a plurality of test portions on a test system;

~~storing~~ providing status information ~~of a~~ about said software test running on [[a]] said test system to a common information point, said status information comprising identification of any of said plurality of test portions that have been completed by said test system and any results from any of said plurality of test portions that have been completed, ~~wherein said common information point is physically separate and communicatively coupled to a test master computer system for monitoring progress of said test system~~;

automatically reinstalling an operating system on said test system in response to reinstall command provided by at least one of said plurality of test portions;

querying said common information point to determine said status information comprising identification of any of said plurality of test portions that were completed by said test system prior to said reinstalling of said operating system and any remaining of said plurality of test portions; and

resuming said software test at a first of said remaining of said plurality of test portions after said reinstallation of said operating system.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said common information point is on a computer system independent from a computer system running said software test.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said reinstalling is performed under software control.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said querying is started by a start-up process, said start up process automatically initiated by said operating system.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said status information comprises an identification test portions completed.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein said resuming restarts said software test at point subsequent to a last test portion completed.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said test system is running a different operating system subsequent to said reinstalling than said test system was running prior to said reinstalling.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of automatic software testing comprising:

installing test driver software comprising a plurality of test portions on a plurality of test systems;

evaluating said test driver software for at least one synchronization requirement within said plurality of test portions;

providing a mapping of a plurality of virtual test system names to real test system names to said test driver software; ~~and~~

~~using~~ providing a test status for each of said plurality of test portions completed by each of said plurality of test systems to a common information point ~~and a test master computer system to gather and to monitor test results from said plurality of test systems, wherein said common information point is physically separate and communicatively coupled to said test master computer system;~~

monitoring said test status for each of said plurality of test portions completed by each of said plurality of test systems at said common information point to maintain synchronization between said plurality of test systems when said test driver software includes said at least one synchronization requirement;

automatically reinstalling an operating system on said plurality of test systems in response to reinstall command provided by at least one of said plurality of test portions;

querying said common information point to determine which of said plurality of test portions were completed by said plurality of test systems prior to said reinstalling of said operating system; and

resuming said software test on a next of said plurality of test portions remaining after said reinstallation of said operating system.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8 further comprising identifying said common point of information to said plurality of test systems.

10.   (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said test results are gathered from said common point of information.

11.   (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said mapping resides on said common point of information.

12.   (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said common point of information is a network file system mount point common to all test systems.

13.   (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said installing is responsive to a start up process, said start up process automatically initiated by said operating system.

14.   (Currently Amended) A computer system for automatic software testing comprising:

a test master computer system;

a plurality of test computer systems for performing a test comprising a plurality of test portions, said plurality of test portions including a command to perform an automatic reinstall of an operating system of at least one of said plurality

of test computer systems ~~communicatively coupled to said test master computer system~~;

a test master computer system communicatively coupled to said plurality of test computer systems, said test master computer system installing a test driver on at least one of said plurality of test computer systems;

a common information point communicatively coupled to said ~~test master computer system and to said~~ plurality of test computer systems, ~~wherein~~ said common information point receiving and storing test status information for each of said plurality of test portions completed by at least one of said plurality of test systems such that in response to an automatic reinstall of said operating system of at least one of said plurality of test computer systems, said test driver will query said common information point to determine which of said plurality of test portions were completed prior to said reinstalling of said operating system and which of said test portions remain pending for said at least one of said plurality of test computer systems ~~is physically separate from said test master computer system~~;

~~said test master computer system for installing a test driver on each of said plurality of test computer systems;~~

~~at least one of said plurality of test computer systems for:~~

~~storing status information of a software test running on said at least one of said plurality of test computer systems to said common information point;~~

~~automatically reinstalling an operating system on said at least one of said plurality of test computer systems;~~

~~querying said common information point to determine said status information, wherein said test master computer system monitors said software test; and~~

~~resuming said software test after said automatically reinistalling of said operating system.~~

15.	(Original) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said test master computer system is distinct from said plurality of test computer systems.

16.	(Original) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said reinitializing is performed under software control.

17. (Original) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said querying is started by a start up process, said start up process automatically initiated by said operating system.

18. (Original) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said status information comprises an identification of test portions completed.

19. (Original) The computer system of Claim 18 wherein said resuming starts said software test at point subsequent to a last test portion completed.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein said at least one of said plurality of test computer systems is running a different operating system subsequent to sad reinstalling than said at least one of said plurality of test computer systems was running prior to said reinstalling.